## NEUTRALIZATION OF THE PHILIPPINES[8]

Whenever the independence of the Philippines has been debated, the question has arisen of how to render secure an autonomous or sovereign Philippine Government. Some have argued in favor of an American protectorate. Others have favored perpetual neutralization of the Philippines. Now with the approval of the Philippine Commonwealth and Independence Law, the United States will be responsible for the Philippines until Philippine independence shall have been achieved, but not thereafter. Also, with the approval of that law, all pretensions at obtaining a relationship with the United States, somewhat akin to that formerly had by Cuba, have gone by the boards. It is to be perpetual neutralization or nothing.

All that the Philippine Commonwealth and Independence Law contains on the subject is one section, wherein the President of the United States is requested "at the earliest practicable date, to enter into negotiations with foreign powers with a view to the conclusion of a treaty for the perpetual neutralization of the Philippine Islands, if and when Philippine independence shall have been achieved." A neutralized state as here contemplated is one which by international agreement is bound to abstain from oflFensive hostilities and from acts which would involve such hostilities, in consideration for the guarantee of its independence and integrity. The Philippines would be in this category, and the President of the United States could solicit a treaty by which

foreign powers, like Great Britain, France, the Netherlands, Japan, and China, together with the United States, would guarantee the integrity of the Republic of the Philippines,

It is altogether too early to speculate on the practicability of a treaty intended to protect the Philippines against aggres-

[8] **See Jose M. Aruego, *Principles of Political Science* (i93[a])> PP- «a-"4» and Roberto Regala, *Neutralization and the Philippines* (1935)-**